

DE RENZIS

Serial No. 09/437,469

value obtained by linearly interpolating between the two numerical values differing from

0 that are nearer to the empty item, and belonging to the same column; and

providing the matrix with a number of items (i, j) higher than the number of

samples x_j ; *

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the above preliminary amendment be entered prior to examination of the claims on the merits. These amendments add headings and subheadings in accordance with U.S. patent practice. Additionally, a number of minor typographical errors and/or modifications of claim and specification language have been made. And several newly written independent claims are offered for consideration.

Having responded to a number of errors noted with respect to the originally filed application, it is submitted that pending claims 1 through 18 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner is of the opinion that a brief telephone or personal interview will facilitate allowance of one or more of these claims, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative.

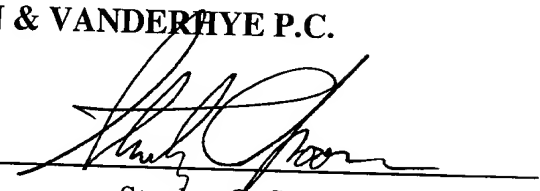
DE RENZIS

Serial No. 09/437,469

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stanley C. Spooner', is written over a horizontal line.

Stanley C. Spooner
Reg. No. 27,393

SCS:kmm

1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor

Arlington, VA 22201-4714

Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100